

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Response, Applicants are amending claims 1, 4, 7 and 13. Additionally, Applicants have canceled claims 10-12, and have added new claims 17-24. Accordingly, claims 1-9 and 13-23 are at issue. Applicants respectfully submit no new matter was added by these amendments.

Applicants note the objections to claim 16, and the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, have been withdrawn by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-11, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thomsen. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As previously set forth, Thomsen et al., discloses a method of configuring addresses to multiple I/O devices having a serial connection. However, unlike the method of claim 1, each I/O device of Thomsen et al., the I/O devices configure their own addresses. As set forth in column 6 of Thomsen et al., and referring to Figure 1 of Thomsen et al., upon power-up the last controller (reference number 14)

recognizes its Serial In input is held low, and configures itself as EXCA Controller #0. It then begins to output a packet on its Serial Out output. . . This packet has . . . four bits of data, indicating that the next EXCA Controller is EXCA Controller #1. (Thomsen et al., col. 6, lines 6-13).

This process is repeated by the EXCA Controller #1 which indicates the next Controller down the line as “#2.” (See Thomsen et al., col. 6, lines 13-25). Accordingly, the server of Thomsen et al., is not assigning network identifiers to the I/O devices.

As noted by the Examiner, in one embodiment of Thomsen (generally disclosed at column 7, line 20-48), the system includes a Non-EXCA Peripheral device. When the “Serial In” of the Non-EXCA Peripheral device is grounded, the Peripheral device outputs “a packet which configures the first EXCA Controller on the serial bus to EXCA Controller #0.” (Thomsen, col.7, lines 30-33). The EXCA Controller #0, in turn, “outputs a packet telling the next EXCA Controller to configure itself as EXCA Controller #1.” (Thomsen, col. 7, lines 39-42). This process is repeated to configure the remaining controllers in a similar manner to the other disclosed embodiments.

Contrary to the Examiner's position, Thomsen does not disclose client nodes that request assignment of a network identifier from a server, or which receive such assignment of the network identifier by the server. Instead, each node configures itself after receiving a prompt from the preceding node in the serial connected network (with the initiating node configuring itself – or in one embodiment, initiating the next node – upon sensing a grounded input) and prompts the next node in line.

Claim 1, as amended herein, requires the step of "broadcasting a request by the client node for assignment of a network identifier from the server." Thomsen does not disclose a system wherein the client node broadcasts a request for assignment of a network identifier from a server. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 1 as amended herein is not anticipated by Thomsen and is patentable over Thomsen.

Claims 2-3 depend on claim 1 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 2-3 are also patentable over Thomsen.

Claim 4, as amended herein, includes the steps of "requesting a network identifier from the network server, the request being made by the client node having the default identifier;" and "determining by the network server the client node having the default identifier and being nearest to the network server." Thomsen does not disclose a system that performs these steps. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 4 as amended herein is not anticipated by Thomsen and is patentable over Thomsen.

Claim 5 depends on claim 4 and includes each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 5 is also patentable over Thomsen.

Claim 7, as amended herein, requires "a first segment for determining a location of the client node by the programmable device in response to a request for a network identifier from the client node." Thomsen does not disclose a system wherein the programmable device receives a request for a network identifier by the client node. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 7 as amended herein is not anticipated by Thomsen and is patentable over Thomsen.

Claims 8-9 depend on claim 7 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 8-9 are also patentable over Thomsen.

Claim 13, as amended herein, requires the step of "a network identifier being assigned to each client node of the plurality of client nodes by the server node." Thomsen does not disclose

a server that assigns a network identifier to a plurality of client nodes. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 13 as amended herein is not anticipated by Thomsen and is patentable over Thomsen.

Claim 16 depends on claim 13 and includes each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claim 16 is also patentable over Thomsen.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomsen in view of Krivoshein. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As set forth above, Applicants respectfully maintain claims 4 and 13 are patentable over Thomsen. Krivoshein fails to cure the deficiencies of Thomsen with respect to claims 4 and 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully maintain claims 4 and 13 are patentable over Thomsen in view of Krivoshein.

Claim 6 indirectly depends on claim 4 and includes each of its limitations, and claims 14-15 depend on claim 13 and include each of its limitations. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit claims 6 and 14-15 are also patentable over Thomsen in view of Krivoshein.

Applicants have added new claims 17-24 which Applicants respectfully submit are also patentable over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit pending claims 1-9 and 13-24 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any questions concerning this Response.

The Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit Deposit Account No. 23-0280 for any **payment deficiencies or overpayments** associated with this matter.

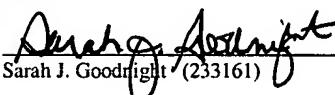
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 7, 2005.


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